



Date: September 9, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending September 9, 2005

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending September 9, 2005. I hope you will find this information useful. Beginning today, in response to Hurricane Katrina, City Report will include Personal Preparedness Emergency Preparation Tips to remind us of steps we should be taking personally to prepare for an emergency in Long Beach. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP #1

Personal Preparedness: Five Days of Self Reliance

Make sure that each member of your family, including pets, can exist without assistance for at least five days. Create an *emergency preparedness kit* of essential supplies, filled with food, water, baby food, pet food, and medications. Be sure to include flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries and first aid supplies.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

Long Beach Energy: Natural Gas Bills To Increase

Across the United States, natural gas customers are expected to face significantly higher heating bills this winter. Long Beach Energy (LBE) gas bills are expected to increase about 34 percent this winter. Last winter, the average LBE residential customer paid \$63 for their monthly gas bill. This winter, the average monthly bill is expected to be closer to \$84. As has been the case for the past few years, the average residential gas bill is expected to remain at or below gas bills of other residential customers throughout Southern California.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

City Manager

On **Tuesday, September 13**, a **Fiscal Year 06 Budget Workshop** will be held from **3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**, Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd. Presentations on the Harbor Department will be made and public input is encouraged.

A **Budget Hearing** will be conducted on **September 13** during the regularly scheduled Council meeting from **7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** The City Council will deliberate all budget proposals and presentations for possible budget adoption.

The public is invited to attend both the Workshop and the Hearing to offer comments. For an entire list of the dates of upcoming budget workshops, or to read the proposed FY 06 Budget, please visit www.longbeach.gov.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

HURRICANE KATRINA UPDATE

Relief Drive

Mayor Beverly O'Neill, City Councilmembers, Police Chief Tony Batts, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Wilson and Red Cross representatives personally accepted donations for disaster relief in response to Hurricane Katrina on Friday, September 2 at the Long Beach Water Treatment Plant. Approximately \$105,000 was raised within the four-hour period of the relief drive.

City Manager's Office: Evacuee Support

City of Long Beach Hurricane Katrina assistance efforts are being jointly coordinated by Mayor O'Neill, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Long Beach Unified School District, the Apartment Association of Southern California Cities, the County Office of Emergency Management, City Senior Management and representatives from Fire, Police, Health and Human Services, Finance and Community Development Departments. The City is planning to provide both short- and long-term assistance for up to 100 families (average size 2.9 people).

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Want to help in the relief effort? The City recommends donating cash to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army or other nationally recognized relief efforts. At this time, material goods such as food and clothing are not needed. Information can be found at www.longbeach.gov. The Red Cross has asked that donations be made without designation of a specific city so that all victims will have equal access to assistance.

Fire Response

Four Long Beach firefighters responded to the Gulf Coast as FEMA reimbursed relief workers. The individuals were selected from a number of firefighters that applied for the assignments, which may last up to one full month. They were sent to *Mission Center* in College Park, Georgia for initial training before being deployed into the field as two-person Community Resource Teams. The firefighters are part of the massive relief and recovery efforts in the hurricane-devastated region.

Health and Human Services Response

Two staff members are participating in public health assessments of Hurricane Katrina evacuees currently being housed in Houston, Texas. The assessment is a survey to assess the general health of individuals and to track and monitor any potential communicable disease in order to prevent outbreaks. The staff will participate in a *rapid health assessment* process for evacuees currently housed at the Astrodome and other Houston area shelters. The assignment should last approximately 5 days. The Health Department's assistance was requested by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, and the University of Texas, Houston Center for Public Health Preparedness, in cooperation with the Houston/Harris County Health Departments.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Beach Operations staff removed 20 tons of debris from the beach areas over the Labor Day weekend.

Library Services

A new service that allows anyone with Internet access to locate materials in all California libraries via a web-based catalog called the California Libraries Catalog is now available. This free service is available through the Library's website at www.lbpl.org. Call 570-7500 for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

City Manager

Deputy Chief Robert Luna, the *Enough is Enough* project manager, and collaborative partners will receive the Human Dignity Program's first annual Community Recognition Awards on **September 15**. The *Enough is Enough* Telethon was a 41-hour series that focused on the issues and the myriad of strategies being used locally and regionally to combat gang violence. The event will showcase social justice contributions, to be held at the Hyatt Regency, Long Beach.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The public is invited to the groundbreaking ceremony of a new Long Beach park that will grace the intersection of Elm Avenue and Plymouth Street on Saturday, **September 10**, 1:00 p.m. Grace Park will add another 1.12 acres towards the City Open Space Plan goal of acquiring 1,000 more acres of parks and open space.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

A workshop on *How to Address Neighborhood Problems* will be held on **September 14**, 6:00 p.m. Representatives from the City of Long Beach's Code Enforcement, Environmental Services, Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program, Safe Streets Now!, Long Beach Police Department and Dispute Resolution Services will present information about their programs and teach residents how to utilize various programs in order to solve their neighborhood problems.

A workshop on *Tenants Rights* will be held on **September 19**, 6:00 p.m. Representatives from Fair Housing Foundation, Centro Shalom, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services' Lead Program will be on a panel to discuss renters' rights and responsibilities, services available to help improve renters' living conditions and to answer questions.

To RSVP or to obtain more information, contact JoAnn Rojas, Neighborhood Training Coordinator, at 570-1010 or by e-mail to JoAnn_Rojas@longbeach.gov.

AWARDS

Fire

The Fire Department has been awarded a Department of Homeland Security grant of more than \$732,000 to implement and augment a safety and wellness program for firefighters. The grant will enhance program services such as the annual fitness evaluations, behavioral health and rehabilitation services, complete wellness and fitness programs, advice on nutrition and exercise, and injury prevention programs. All firefighters will participate in the program. In addition, it will provide fitness equipment for all fire stations and support facilities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

A recent rise in theft-related crimes in the East and West Divisions prompted proactive enforcement in the form of an undercover grand theft bicycle sting operation. Crime analysis was used to determine focus locations. During a three-hour period, plain-clothes officers conducted surveillance on a decoy bicycle and made two arrests.

During a two-hour period, from 10:00 p.m. to midnight on September 3, the Vice Detail conducted a John Program in the area of Pacific Coast Highway and Daisy Avenue. Officers made five prostitution-related arrests and towed one vehicle. This operation is part of a continuing effort to address prostitution and prostitution-related crimes in the city.

The Traffic Safety Checkpoint conducted on August 29 at Ocean Blvd., west of Pacific Ave., resulted in two arrests. In addition, 14 vehicles were impounded and 61 traffic citations were issued. Checkpoints are a vital component in the fight against both impaired and unlicensed drivers.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,491 emergency calls for service: 115 calls for fires, of which 19 involved structures; and 789 emergency medical calls, of which 542 required paramedics.

The Long Beach Fire Department Communications Center, in association with the California Fire Chief's Association, hosted a special training class for 911 Emergency Fire Department Dispatchers from all over the Southern California area. The specialized course, held at the Emergency Communications and Operations Center (ECOC), included training in a wide-range of topics that are specific to emergency scene management and medical response.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Demolition inside the Silverado Park pool is complete. Removal of asbestos tiles is in progress and is expected to be complete next week.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The concrete ramp from the LARIO Trail (along the Los Angeles River) down to the north end of Cesar E. Chavez Park has been completed and backfilled. Irrigation repairs along both sides of the lower portion of the ramp are in progress.

The ADA improvement project at the El Dorado teen center is nearing completion. Demolition is underway at Golden Grove in El Dorado Park East Area 3, where the area is being prepared for the ADA remodeling of the freestanding restroom. The parking lot is being re-striped and new ADA signage installed at the El Dorado Park archery range.

Police

The annual *Police Chief for a Day* essay contest is now open and entries are due on **October 14**. Winners will be announced on October 28 and the student who will be *Police Chief for a Day* will have breakfast with the Chief of Police, attend a Command Staff meeting, tour the Police Department and Communications Center, observe a K9 demonstration and firearms training exercise at the shooting range, and attend a City Council meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The *Jetty to Jetty Sand Challenge*, with an estimated attendance of 50, was held at Granada Beach on September 4.

NBC, with a cast and crew of 85, filmed a TV production *Las Vegas* at the Convention Center and V2O on September 7.

CBS Productions, with a cast and crew of 75, will film a TV Production *CSI Miami* on the Queensway Bridge, in the water under the Queensway Bridge, and in Naga Restaurant's parking lot on September 8.

Warner Brothers, with a cast and crew of 125, will film a TV Production *The O.C.* on Ocean Blvd. on September 9.

MTV Networks, with a cast and crew of 25, will film a TV Production *Next* at the Rowing Center, in Dunster Park, and Marina Vista Park on September 9.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Staff completed a total of 3,376 service calls. This total included 1,126 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 836 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,102 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 312 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 452 emergency phone calls that resulted in 99 emergency orders being sent out.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Long Beach Energy, Installation of Gas Lines

Contact: Long Beach Energy, 570-2085

2nd St. Kennebec Ave. to Orizaba Ave.

Broadway Obispo Ave. to Junipero Ave.

Estimated completion: September 23, 2005

Public Works, Street Improvement

Contact: Public Works, 570-5160

La Perla Ave. El Mirador Ave. to El Cedral St.

College Circle Atherton frontage full circle

Keynote St. Rutgers Ave. to Bellflower frontage

Maine Ave. Spring St. to 31st St.

Freeland St. California St. to Cerritos Ave.

Scott St. Rahn Ave. to Long Beach Blvd.

Shipway Ave. Los Santo Dr. to Point North of Los Santo Dr.

Orange Ave. 11th street to point North of 11th St.

17th St. Long Beach Blvd. to Linden Ave.

Freeman Ave. 8th St. to 10th St.

Eucalyptus Ave. 20th St. to Hill St.

Estimated completion: October 2005

Atlantic Ave. Roosevelt to San Antonio

Orange Ave. Spring St. to 405 Freeway

Estimated Completion: September 2005

Clark Avenue Spring Street to Wardlow Road

Estimated Completion: November 2005

Del Amo Blvd. Los Angeles River to Long Beach Boulevard

Artesia Blvd. West of Long Beach Boulevard to Harbor Street

Atlantic Ave. North of Artesia Boulevard to a point North of 68th Street

Cherry Avenue North of Artesia Boulevard to 70th Street

Artesia Blvd. East of Obispo Avenue to Downey Avenue

Estimated Completion: December 2005

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
City Manager Department Heads
Tom Modica, Manager, Government Affairs
Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison